

General Introduction

Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1993, is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The primary objective of the refuge is to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl.

Public use, hunting and fishing are allowed under carefully controlled conditions in order to maintain wildlife populations. This permits the wise use of a valuable natural resource and provides wholesome recreational opportunities for the public. Public use, hunting and fishing are in accordance with state and federal regulations as supplemented by the following special refuge regulations.

Access and Vehicle Use

Vehicle access on the Mingo Creek Unit is limited to ATV use only on marked ATV trails. Conventional vehicles may be used on the Farm Unit March 1 -November 14, but are restricted to graveled roads during wet conditions. ATVs are restricted to those with engines displacement of 700 cc or less AND with tires having a centerline lug depth of one inch or less. ATVs only may be used from November 15 to February 28 for access from Parking Areas. All vehicles including ATVs must stay on established roads. Roads may be closed at anytime hazardous or poor road conditions exist. Parking of vehicles on roadsides that prevents the passage of extra-wide farm equipment prohibited. Vehicles are subject to be towed at owner's expense. Horses, airboats and hovercraft are prohibited.

General Refuge Regulations

Public use of the refuge is permitted throughout the year. Permitted activities are hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education and interpretation.

Nighttime use is limited to fishing and/or frogging and the appropriate tackle must be possessed. Prohibited activities include driving conventional vehicles on wet/muddy ungraveled roads, joy riding, off road vehicling, searching for and removal of artifacts, camping, building fires, cutting or defacing trees, littering and commercial activities. Waterfowl sanctuaries, indicated on the map, are closed to all public use from November 15 through February 28. Firearms, archery equipment and crossbows are permitted only during refuge hunts. Houseboat mooring to the refuge bank on the Red River is prohibited.

Sport Fishing and Frogging Regulations

Sport fishing and frogging is permitted year-round in accordance with state regulations. Crawdads may also be collected for personal use only.

General Hunt Regulations

Refuge permits are required for all hunts. Permits are nontransferable and must be carried at all times by anyone on refuge land in possession of hunting equipment.

Mobility-impaired hunters

Mobility-impaired hunters may apply for a special permit which will allow hunting from an ATV on refuge roads. Issuance of the permit is restricted to persons who are permanently confined to a wheelchair; require the use of mechanical aids (crutches and walkers) to walk or have complete single leg amputations. For more information, please call the refuge at 870-347-2614.

Firearms

Firearms must be unloaded when carried in/on land vehicles or boats under power. Hunting from a vehicle or use of a vehicle as a deer stand is prohibited. Target practice or shooting non-game species prohibited.

Prohibited

Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited. The placing of or hunting over bait or salt is prohibited. Waterfowl sanctuaries, indicated on the refuge map, are closed to all entrance and hunting from November 15 through February 28.

Trapping is prohibited. Beaver, muskrat, nutria, coyote, and armadillo may be taken during any refuge hunt by the use of the firearm appropriate for that hunt.

Spotlighting is prohibited. Artificial lights may not be used to locate wildlife.

Bag limits for all species except deer are the same as state limits unless specified otherwise.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Non toxic (waterfowl) shot or rimfire rifles only may be possessed and used for all small game hunting.

Only biodegradable paper flagging or reflective tacks may be possessed or used to mark trails.

Hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult not less than 21 years old and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth.

Hunters born after December 31, 1968, must possess a hunter education card.

Obtaining Permits

When signed, this brochure will serve as a permit for all hunts except the quota deer hunt. A quota deer permit is also required for the quota gun deer hunt.

To apply for a quota hunt permit

Print or type your name, address, and birth date on one side of a 3x5 index card or standard postcard.

Indicate the refuge (i.e. Cache River or Bald Knob) hunt for which you are applying opposite your name. Separate applications are required for each refuge.

To apply as a group (maximum of five hunters per group), list required information for all applicants on the same card.

Return completed application(s) to the refuge office between July 1 and August 15.

Duplicated, unclear or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Specific Hunt Regulations

Regulations differ from surrounding deer zones and state seasons as follows:

***All hunts are closed November 13-14, 2004 on the Farm Unit for Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed on the Farm Unit during this hunt.**

Waterfowl (Duck, Coot and Geese)

State seasons*. Morning (until 12:00 noon) hunting only. All day hunting permitted for geese (all applicable species) after January, 2005 closing of duck season through end of goose season(s). **Shotgun shell possession Limit-25 daily including within vehicles. Hunters must stay 100 yards apart.**

State bag limit(s) apply. Non-toxic shot only may be possessed or used. Decoys, blinds, boats and all other equipment must be removed daily by 2:00 pm. Waterfowl hunters may enter refuge parking areas at 4:45 am and access the refuge daily at 5:00 am. Building or hunting from permanent blinds prohibited. Cutting of holes or other manipulation of vegetation (i.e. cutting bushes, mowing, weed-eating, etc.) or hunting from manipulated areas prohibited. Retrievers allowed. Commercial hunting /guiding is prohibited.

Doves, Snipe and Woodcock

May be taken when seasons correspond with duck and/or goose seasons.*

Small Game

Squirrel: September 4, 2004- February 28, 2005.* Dogs permitted beginning January 15, 2005. Spring season closed.

Rabbit: September 4, 2004 - February 28, 2005.* Dogs permitted beginning January 15, 2005.

Quail: State season.* Dogs permitted.

Furbearer

Raccoon and Opossum: November 12 - 27, 2004. Dogs permitted. Trapping and pleasure running of dogs throughout the year prohibited.

Big Game

For all deer and turkey harvested on the refuge, the zone to be immediately recorded on your hunting license and later at the refuge check station is 002. Harvested deer and turkey must be checked at one of the two refuge check stations which are located at the refuge Headquarters and at the Mingo Creek Unit kiosk. Only single person portable stands may be used and the owner's name and address must be permanently affixed to the stand. All stands must be removed from the waterfowl sanctuary prior to November 15 and from the rest of the refuge by the last day of archery season. The use of dogs is prohibited.

The refuge is located in AG&FC Flood Prone Region B. The refuge will close to all deer hunting when the White River gauge at Augusta reaches or exceeds 31.0 feet in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*. The refuge will re-open when the Augusta gauge falls below 30.0 feet and the White River gauge at Georgetown falls to or below 19.0 feet in the same newspaper.

Deer limits and Refuge Legal Buck Definition

For all refuge hunts, the limit is one either-sex deer per hunt except for the archery season in which the statewide bag limit of 3 applies. The total number of bucks that can be harvested through a combination of all refuge hunts is two; Those deer may have a total of 4 points or less on both sides including the main beams OR have a minimum of 4 points on one side including the main beam. Points must be at least one inch long. Youths under the age of 16 may take any buck as their first buck but must comply with the above legal buck criteria to harvest a second buck. Deer harvested on the refuge are not BONUS deer.

Deer (archery/crossbow): October 1, 2004-February 15, 2005.* Either sex. State limit applies.

Deer (muzzleloading): October 16-24, 2004. Either sex. One deer limit.

Deer (gun): Quota hunt. November 13-14, 2004. Either sex. One deer limit. Mingo Creek Unit closed. Farm Unit (including waterfowl sanctuary) open to quota permit holders. Shotguns with rifled slugs, legal pistols and muzzleloaders only may be possessed or used for this hunt. Deer stands must be removed from waterfowl sanctuary by November 14.

Turkey

Turkey (fall archery): October 1, 2004-February 15, 2005 on Mingo Creek Unit only. State limit applies.

Turkey (fall gun and spring gun): Closed.

Turkey (spring 2005 archery): Mingo Creek Unit only. Corresponding dates and bag limit with AG&FC zone 4 dates/bag limit.

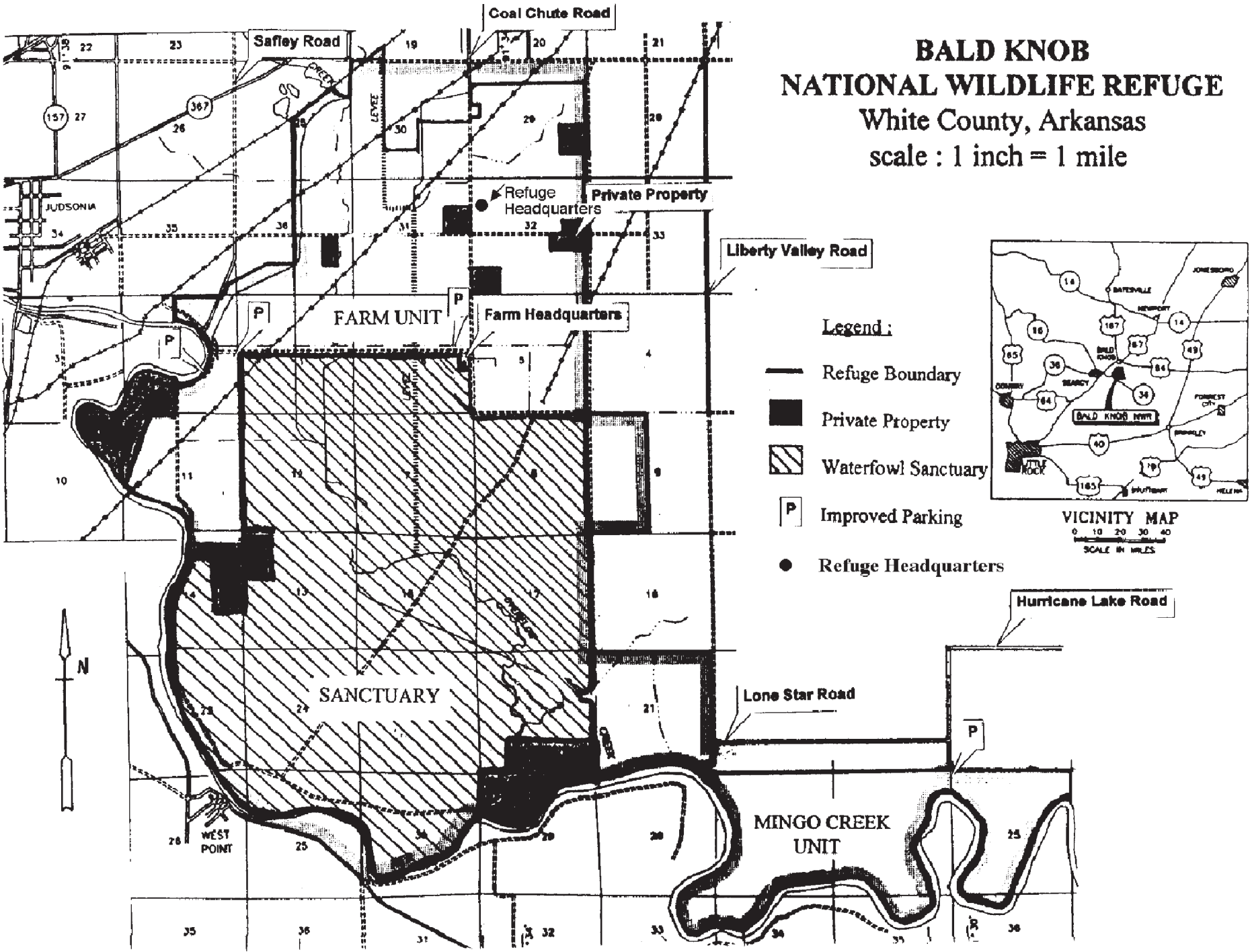
Guide to Refuge Signs
Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs:



Area closed to all public use.
Some areas such as waterfowl sanctuaries are only seasonally closed. Seasonally closed areas have the specific closure dates printed on the face of the sign.



Refuge Boundary Sign.
Public use permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.



Bald Knob
National Wildlife Refuge
26320 Highway 33 South
Augusta, AR 72006
870/347 2614
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

May 2004



Bald Knob

*National Wildlife Refuge
Public Use Hunting and
Fishing Regulations
2004-2005*

This permit must be completed to be valid. Permit expires 6/30/2005. It must be carried by the hunter during the hunts. NOTE: Quota Permit also required for quota gun deer hunt.

2004/2005 General Hunting Permit - Bald Knob NWR
I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations and realize that hunting on the refuge is a privilege and willingly agree to allow USFWS officers to inspect or search all equipment used during my hunt.

Signature (Permit not transferable)